Ku-band signals by private cable operators

1413.SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in his Ministry for permitting private cable operators to receive Ku-band signals and distribute the same through their own network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ku-band network is a non-commercial educational project for knowledge distribution; and

(d) the objections that Government have on receiving of Ku-band signals by private cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Ministry to allow cable TV operators to receive Ku-band signals and distribute through their own network, and as per and MoU signed by Government of Andhra Pradesh with ISRO, distribution of the Ku-band signals through commercial cable networks is not allowed.

MANA TV, which is uplinked in Ku-band, was created in the State of Andhra Pradesh as a bouquet of channels dedicated to Educational and Developmental Programmes under their Department of IT&C. Subsequently, the Government of Andhra Pradesh also created an autonomous society SAPNET (Society for Andhra Pradesh Network) to manage and operate these channels.

With regard to the proposal for carriage of signal over cable networks, Government of Andhra Pradesh has been informed that it would be extremely difficult for SAPNET to ensure the carriage of TV channel by cable operators in view of ever increasing demand for carriage space by other private TV channels. Government of Andhra Pradesh has been advised that SAPNET could consider approaching Prasar Bharti for carriage of MANA TV channel on its Free to Air DTH platform on an experimental basis.